

How is worm composting different  
from backyard composting?

# Worms eat my garbage



# The star of the show Red the Wiggler



# Getting to know Red





# How does Red make babies?

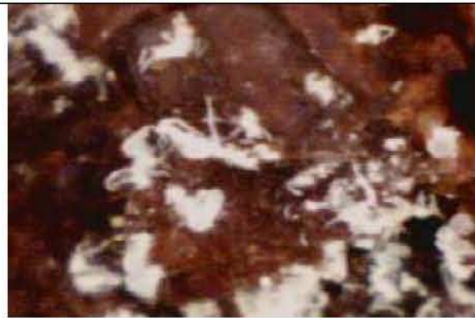
- 30 cocoons per year
- Hatch in 30 days (ave. 3 babies)
- Mature in 3 months
- Can go dormant for 18 months



# Up close with the supporting cast



**MITES**



**MOLDS & FUNGI**



**POT WORMS**



**SOWBUGS (PILLBUGS)**



**FRUIT FLY**



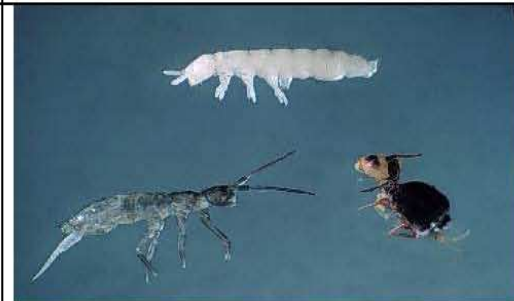
**CENTIPEDE & MILLIPEDE**



**SOLDIER FLY LARVA**



**ANTS**



**SPRINGTAILS**



# Types of worm bins



# Bedding







Worms do not like chilli, citrus, onion or garlic. It is recommended that you do NOT place meat, bread or dairy products into your worm farm as it can cause it to smell and/or attract vermin. Remember to chop scraps into smaller pieces where possible. Variety is the spice of life - not too much of any food at once is preferable!

# Bedding, Food, Bedding, Food, etc.

- **Feed twice a week; one half side at a time**
- **Smaller pieces of food break down faster**
- **Feed in thin layers**
- **Cover with bedding**



# When is worm compost ready?





# Harvesting the vermicompost

1. Scoop out the top 3 - 6 inches and set aside
2. Empty compost into a storage container
3. Return top 3-6 inches to begin new bin



## The Finished Product

- Use 2 tablespoons per 4" pots
- $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup per gal. transplants
- Spread castings around plants
- 1 pound per 1,000 sq. ft. garden
- Castings sell for \$400 per c.y.

# What About Leachate?





# My bin is infested with flies



Worms are all over my lid



# My bin smells

- **Stop feeding**
- **Gently stir contents for air flow**
- **Do not feed until smell disappears**
- **Drain leachate**





My food scraps aren't  
decomposing quickly



My bin is too wet



# Lets make a worm bin

1. **Insert air vents, cork & bin separator**
2. **Spread sheet of newspaper on bottom**
3. **Fill 1/3 with moist bedding**
4. **Line up bins, wait for worm delivery**
5. **Spread layer of food over 1/2 surface**
6. **Cover with leaf mold bedding**





# Red worm sources

Yelm Worm Farm –

1 lb. est. 800-1000 worms) \$24.95 + Handling (8%) + tax

Phone orders only: 360-894-0707

Northwest Redworms

1 lb. est. 800-1000 worms) \$27 + tax

<https://www.northwestredworms.com/all/worms/redworms>

# European Nightcrawlers

